

REMARKS

A new independent claim 19 and new claims 16, 17, and 18 ultimately depending from claim 9 have been added. Claims 9 – 19 are currently pending in the present application.

As requested by the Examiner, Applicants herewith submit a Substitute Declaration.

In the Office Action, claims 9-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Anderson et al US Patent No. 6,434,857. Also, in the Office Action, claims 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anderson et al US Patent No. 6,434,857 in view of Tuck et al US Patent No. 3,034,221.

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of the rejection of claims 9 – 15 in view of the following comments.

The present invention, as exemplarily set forth in independent claim 19 of the present invention, recites a method for operating a dishwasher that includes the step of subjecting crockery retained in the device to a drying step after the crockery has undergone a treatment step as a result of which moisture remains on the crockery. The drying step includes drawing air from one or from both a treatment chamber and ambient air through a sorption column and thereafter guiding the air that has passed through the sorption column into the treatment chamber. The sorption column contains reversibly dehydratable material that operates to withdraw moisture from air during the passage of the air through the sorption column. The method recited in independent claim 19 of the present invention also includes the step of effecting desorption of the reversibly

dehydratable material in the sorption column via drawing air from the respective one(s) of the treatment chamber and the ambient air through the sorption column by means of an air accelerator means, subjecting air passing through the sorption column to heating, and guiding the air that has been heated as it passed through the sorption column into the treatment chamber, whereupon the air guided into the treatment chamber heats at least one of a treatment liquid to be applied to the crockery retained in the device and the crockery themselves.

Anderson et al US Patent No. 6,434,857 discloses a combination washer-drier apparatus 11 for washing and drying clothes. The combination washer-drier apparatus 11 has a dessicant recharging system 13. The washer-drier apparatus 11 comprises two closed air flow pathways, one air flow pathway primarily operational during the washing cycle and the other pathway primarily operational during the drying cycle.

Tuck et al US Patent No. 3,034,221 discloses a clothes dryer for drying clothes that have been washed in a clothes washing machine. The clothes dryer includes a regeneration heater for heating a dessicant bed.

It is respectfully submitted that neither Anderson et al US Patent No. 6,434,857 nor Tuck et al US Patent No. 3,034,221, either alone or in combination, teach or disclose the method recited in independent claim 19 of the present application. For example, Anderson et al US Patent No. 6,434,857 and Tuck et al US Patent No. 3,034,221 are both directed to appliances for handling clothes and one of ordinary skill in the art would not turn to such appliances in seeking solutions for a dishwasher.

Additionally, it is submitted that new dependent claim 18 of the present application patentably defines over the prior art of record. New dependent claim

18 depends from claim 9 and recites the further step of drawing air from at least one of a source of air consisting of air from the treatment chamber and a source of air consisting of ambient air through the sorption column by means of an air accelerator means after the step of effecting desorption of the reversibly dehydratable material in the sorption column. This further step includes drawing such air through the sorption column from the respective source of air substantially without imparting heat to the air from after the air exits the respective source of air up to its entry into the sorption column. The air drawn through the sorption column is heated within the sorption column via heat of condensation as liquid is condensed from the air and absorbed by sorption material in the sorption column. In accordance with the method recited in new dependent claim 18 of the present application, the air that has been heated as it passed through the sorption column is guided into the treatment chamber, whereupon the air guided into the treatment chamber heats at least one of a treatment liquid to be applied to the items retained in the device and the items themselves.

It is submitted that the prior art of record does not teach or disclose the method for operating a device recited in new claim 18 of the present application. For example, Anderson et al US Patent No. 6,434,857 does not teach or disclose a step of drawing air from at least one of a source of air consisting of air from a treatment chamber and a source of air consisting of ambient air through a sorption column by means of an air accelerator means after a step of effecting desorption of a reversibly dehydratable material in the sorption column, with this step including drawing such air through the sorption column from the respective source of air substantially without imparting heat to the air from after the air exits the respective source of air up to its entry into the sorption column. Instead, in the Anderson et al US Patent No. 6,434,857 arrangement, air passing through the dessicant 19 (i.e., a "reversibly dehydratable material") is subjected to heating by heating coils 31 and, thus, this air heated by the heating coils in the

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Anderson et al US Patent No. 6,434,857 arrangement is not, in the language of new claim 18 of the present application, [drawn] "through the sorption column from the respective source of air substantially without imparting heat to the air from after the air exits the respective source of air up to its entry into the sorption column."

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, entry of the present Amendment and allowance of claims 9 – 19 are respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned. If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

Respectfully submitted,

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